

THE MOUNTAIN

by M.K. Boyle



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The Mountain

A series for
Advent candlelighting

by M.K. Boyle

CAST OF CHARACTERS

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

(Male or female)

THREE HIKERS

(Women)

Joy

Hope

Peace

TWO CHURCH MEMBERS

(One female, one male)

Faith

John

NARRATOR

(Male or female)

This series is designed for use during the four weeks of the Advent season. The running time is five to eight minutes each, utilizing the same actors for all performances (if possible).

Each sketch requires the assistance of three to five victims — I mean audience members — to read one-line responses.

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PRODUCTION NOTES

The Mountain is an Advent comedy in four parts. It is the eve of the big Christmas program. The Program Coordinator frantically sets about organizing the biggest pageant the church has ever had. Three hikers “volunteer” to make sure the star is correctly positioned for the big night. During their journey, they experience difficulties that challenge their faith and remind them that Christ is the focus of our hope, joy, faith, and peace.

During the Christmas season, it’s not uncommon for all of us to face our own personal “mountains.” Oftentimes we are so overwhelmed with the hassles of shopping, Christmas programs, and parties that we don’t stop to remember the true meaning of the season.

Such is the case for these three women. The activity they volunteered for has become much bigger than expected. In fact, it’s become a mountain project!

The Program Coordinator sets the mood and keeps the audience informed on each scenario. The audience will thrill at taking an active part in each sketch. A surprise ending follows, showing that it’s also not uncommon to turn molehills into mountains.

SET: The staging is very simple with all props entering and exiting with the actors.

PROPS: One large star approximately five to six feet high and five feet across decorated with Christmas lights. Anything less will nullify the effect of the star being portrayed as “heavy.” One clipboard for the Program Coordinator to use.

COSTUMES: Casual attire.

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Facing the Mountain

(A sketch on hope)

THEME: Part one of *The Mountain* series — featuring hope.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Jeremiah 17:7, Romans 8:25

SYNOPSIS: A hiker learns that what seems like a hopeless situation simply involves taking one step at a time.

CAST: Program Coordinator, Hope, Joy, Peace, four audience participants, Narrator

COSTUMES: Hiking attire for Hope, Joy, and Peace.

PROPS: One large star, clipboard for Program Coordinator

SETTING: The base of the mountain.

1 **NARRATOR:** On this, our first Sunday of Advent, we light
 2 the candle of hope. (*Lights one candle.*) Hope resides
 3 with the surety of God’s existence and the knowledge
 4 of his will revealed to us in Holy Scripture. Jeremiah
 5 tells us, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and
 6 whose hope is the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:7, NKJV). Hope is
 7 that which is unseen; that which we wait patiently for.
 8 (*NARRATOR exits. Enter PROGRAM COORDINATOR.*)

9 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** All right, everyone, let’s get
 10 organized here. We need everyone to cooperate if we’re
 11 going to have a successful Christmas program this year.

12 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 1:** What are we doing?

13 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** We are going to have a
 14 procession starting with Mary and Joseph on a
 15 pilgrimage to Bethlehem. We’ll start on the east end of
 16 town, with Mary riding on the donkey and Joseph
 17 leading. By the way, will she still be able to ride?

18 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 2:** The doctor said her injuries
 19 were only minor.

20 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Good. Make sure that donkey
 21 is calm next time. Give it a donkey valium or ...
 22 something. Now, we’ll end the procession on the west
 23 end of town at _____’s (*Name a member in the*
 24 *audience.*) barn, which has been decorated as a manger
 25 scene. Shortly after Mary and Joseph set up the
 26 manger scene, the shepherds will pass through next,
 27 and then the wise men following the star. Once
 28 everyone reaches the barn — I mean the stable — that’s
 29 when the audience will be seated for the official
 30 Christmas program. Now who’s in charge of the
 31 animals? (*A hand raises in the audience, AUDIENCE*
 32 *PARTICIPANT 2. The PROGRAM COORDINATOR focuses*
 33 *on that person.*) Make sure they do their “thing” before
 34 the procession. We don’t want to step in anything
 35 disgusting. Who’s decorating the manger? (*AUDIENCE*

1 **PARTICIPANT 3** *raises hand.*) Do you have enough
 2 people?
 3 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 3:** *(Stands.)* I've got enough
 4 people and more than enough lights.
 5 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Excellent. Use them all.
 6 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 4:** What about the star?
 7 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** I've got three volunteers.
 8 Where are they? *(Enter HOPE, JOY, and PEACE.)*
 9 **PEACE:** Here we are!
 10 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Hope, Joy, Peace. Your job is
 11 to pick up the star. *(Points at a star already On-stage)* and
 12 take it down the road and up that mountain. *(All look*
 13 *up, mouths gaped open.)* Once you reach the top, just plug
 14 it in to the generator and it'll light up the sky. Got it?
 15 Good luck. *(PROGRAM COORDINATOR exits.)*
 16 **HOPE:** We volunteered for this?
 17 **JOY:** You've got to be kidding me.
 18 **PEACE:** This could prove interesting.
 19 **HOPE:** It's too big. I can't do this!
 20 **PEACE:** Sure you can. It's just a little hill.
 21 **JOY:** It's twelve thousand feet high! That's like saying
 22 Adolph Hitler was just a little power hungry.
 23 **HOPE:** Look at the top. There's nothing but rocks!
 24 **PEACE:** That's only because it's the timberline area.
 25 **HOPE:** What does that mean?
 26 **PEACE:** It simply means the trees don't grow past a certain
 27 altitude level.
 28 **HOPE:** Oh.
 29 **JOY:** Or oxygen level.
 30 **HOPE:** *(Panicked)* What?!
 31 **PEACE:** Look, we all agreed to do this. Think how
 32 wonderful it will be to see this star shining down on
 33 our town. So what if it's a bit *(Sighs)* more than we
 34 anticipated; that shouldn't stop us from trying. Besides,
 35 we can do anything with the help of the Lord. We just

1 have to have faith. With that, we can move mountains.
2 **JOY:** I don't think he meant this big of a mountain. *(Pause)*
3 Did he?
4 **HOPE:** *(Fingers to temples)* I believe, I believe, I believe.
5 **PEACE:** Hope, what are you doing?
6 **HOPE:** I'm using my great faith to move this mountain.
7 *(Looks up.)*
8 **JOY:** It's still there.
9 **HOPE:** Oh, man!
10 **JOY:** Now what do we do?
11 **HOPE:** It's hopeless.
12 **PEACE:** I've got an idea! Don't look at it.
13 **HOPE and JOY:** What?
14 **PEACE:** Well, it seems to me that the size of the task is
15 overwhelming you, making it feel like a hopeless
16 situation. If we keep our eyes on the trail ahead of us
17 and keep our focus on each step ...
18 **JOY:** And trust that the Lord will get us there ...
19 **HOPE:** Then we have a chance! I can't do this myself, but
20 my hope is in the Lord, so I'm going to trust him to get
21 us there — one step at a time.
22 **PEACE:** That's the spirit!
23 **JOY:** Well, what are we waiting for? Let's go! *(All pick up the*
24 *star together, let out a grunt, and start carrying the star,*
25 *feigning steps.)*
26 **HOPE:** *(Whining)* How much farther is it?
27 **JOY:** We haven't even gone a hundred yards. Focus, focus!
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Delight in the Mountain

(A sketch about joy)

THEME: Part two of *The Mountain* series — featuring joy.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:11

SYNOPSIS: A hiker learns that personal happiness is not always the prerequisite to accomplishing a task.

CAST: Program Coordinator, Hope, Joy, Peace, three audience participants, Narrator

COSTUMES: Hiking attire for Hope, Joy, and Peace.

PROPS: One large star, clipboard for Program Coordinator

SETTING: A mountain.

1 **NARRATOR:** On the first Sunday of Advent we remembered
2 that hope is not what we can see, but what we wait
3 patiently for. (*Lights one candle.*) In this, the second
4 Sunday of Advent, we reflect on joy. (*Lights second*
5 *candle.*) Joy is not mere happiness, excitement, or
6 personal thrill. Joy is the secure knowledge that we are
7 God's children. It is knowing that he is always with us.
8 (*NARRATOR exits. PROGRAM COORDINATOR enters.*)

9 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** All right, everyone, let's settle
10 down and concentrate on the business at hand. It's
11 going to take every one of us working together to pull
12 off this Christmas program. Where are my angels? I
13 want the people flying above the stable.

14 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 1:** Uh ... we're having trouble
15 with the wings. They keep getting caught in the ropes.

16 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Maybe they'll just have to
17 stand on the roof.

18 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 2:** That would interfere with
19 the Christmas lights that we have on the barn.

20 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** (*Correcting*) Stable. Remember
21 — it's a stable now. Oh, by the way, get the plastic
22 Rudolph off the roof. This is supposed to be a manger
23 scene, not Santa's homecoming. Where's Mary and
24 Joseph? Are they ready for the procession across town?
25 Good. Oh, and in the future, please do not put the
26 donkey in the pastor's study. It took us an hour to
27 clean up the mess it made in there. Now, where are my
28 wise men? (*AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 3 raises hand.*)
29 Remember, you'll be following Mary and Joseph. As
30 you come through town, I want you to point at that
31 mountain over there (*Points*) and keep making
32 references about the star you're following.

33 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 3:** What star?

34 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** We're working on it. I've got
35 three very reliable people making sure that we'll have

1 a star positioned at the top so when it's lit, everyone in
 2 town will be able to see it. In fact, they're taking it up
 3 now even as we speak. (*Enter HOPE, JOY, and PEACE*
 4 *with the star. They appear to be struggling.*) OK, let's line
 5 up over there. (*Points toward side of stage and exits.*)

6 **JOY:** (*Very fast*) Hold it, hold it, hold it! (*All put the star down.*
 7 *JOY grabs her hand and alternates between shaking and*
 8 *holding it with her other hand.*)

9 **HOPE:** What's the matter? (*JOY can't speak. She shakes her*
 10 *head "no."*)

11 **PEACE:** Did you cut yourself? (*JOY continues to shake her*
 12 *head vigorously.*)

13 **HOPE:** Are you bleeding? (*More violent head shaking.*)

14 **JOY:** I broke a nail! (*Sympathetic ahhs from HOPE and*
 15 *PEACE as they examine the wounded finger.*)

16 **JOY:** Do you know how long it took me to get it to total
 17 perfection?

18 **PEACE:** At least one nail ago?

19 **HOPE:** (*To PEACE*) I thought they were fake.

20 **JOY:** (*Still looking at nail*) Well, that's it for me. I'm out of
 21 here!

22 **PEACE:** No, you can't!

23 **HOPE:** Don't go!

24 **JOY:** I just can't do this anymore.

25 **HOPE:** Come on, Joy, we're halfway there! Look, I once
 26 thought it was an impossible thing to do, too. So in
 27 order for me to even *hope* to make it, I just have to take
 28 it one step at a time and trust that the Lord will get me
 29 there.

30 **JOY:** It's not —

31 **PEACE:** We have to have faith. Faith is our staple, hope is
 32 our stimulus.

33 **HOPE:** Faith is the glue, hope is our plywood.

34 **PEACE:** Faith is the door, hope is the key.

35 **HOPE:** Faith is the horse, hope is ...

- 1 **JOY:** Enough already! It's not that I think it's impossible or
2 that I don't have enough faith.
- 3 **HOPE:** Then what is it?
- 4 **JOY:** (*Hesitates.*) I'm not happy.
- 5 **HOPE and PEACE:** (*Look at each other, then back at JOY.*)
6 What?!
- 7 **JOY:** Well, at first I was a bit overwhelmed when we
8 volunteered to do this, but you said it would be fun.
9 We've been hauling this thing up for hours, and it
10 suddenly occurred to me that I'm not having fun and
11 I'm not happy.
- 12 **PEACE:** I never said it was going to be fun.
- 13 **JOY:** You did too!
- 14 **PEACE:** I did not!
- 15 **JOY:** You did!
- 16 **PEACE:** I said it would be a challenge, and it would bring
17 joy to people during the Christmas season. I never
18 mentioned fun or happy.
- 19 **JOY:** So you're not having fun either?
- 20 **PEACE:** I don't know. (*Pause*) That wasn't my goal.
- 21 **JOY:** (*To HOPE*) Not even happy?
- 22 **HOPE:** I didn't want to do this to begin with. But part of
23 my hope is that when this star is lit, it will renew the
24 joy of Christ's birth to the people in our town.
- 25 **PEACE:** When they see this star shining above, they'll be
26 reminded of the words "For behold, I bring you good
27 tidings of great joy which shall be to all people" (Luke
28 2:10).
- 29 **HOPE:** You see, happy is what you are in the moment. But
30 joy is knowing that God loves us. It's also doing
31 something for God and knowing it's the right thing to
32 do — like suffering persecution for our beliefs ...
- 33 **PEACE:** Or doing something to strengthen other people's
34 beliefs.
- 35 **JOY:** Like carrying a star up a mountain. (*Sighs.*) Well, what

1 are we waiting for? The sun's not going to be out all
2 day. *(All three HIKERS pick up the star and pantomime*
3 *walking up a steep hill.)*

4 **HOPE:** Uh-oh. It looks like the trail is washed out up there.

5 **PEACE:** We'll have to scale those boulders on the side there.

6 **Watch out for snakes.**

7 **JOY:** *(Irritated)* You know, being happy would really be a
8 **plus right now.** *(All exit.)*

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Trust in the Mountain

(A sketch about faith and trust)

THEME: Part three of *The Mountain* series — featuring the lessons of faith.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: James 1:6-7

SYNOPSIS: Chaos has overtaken the planning of the Christmas program. It'll take a miracle to pull it all together — or perhaps an act of faith?

CAST: Program Coordinator, Faith, John, five audience participants, Hope, Joy, and Peace have a brief non-speaking role, Narrator

COSTUMES: Hiking attire for Hope, Joy, and Peace.

PROPS: One large star, clipboard for Program Coordinator

SETTING: The base of the mountain.

1 **NARRATOR:** On the first Sunday of Advent, we were
2 reminded that it is our hope in the Lord that keeps us
3 moving and living the Christian life. (*Lights one candle.*)
4 On the second Sunday, we learned that joy is knowing
5 that God is always with us. (*Lights second candle.*) Today,
6 the third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of
7 faith. (*Lights the third candle.*) “Faith is ... the evidence of
8 things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). It does not reside in
9 mere intellectual knowledge or emotional security.
10 Faith exists as a gift from God. Faith isn’t about what
11 we do, but in whom we put our trust. (*NARRATOR exits.*
12 *PROGRAM COORDINATOR enters.*)

13 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** All right, everyone, let’s have
14 some quiet. We’ve got a lot to do if we’re going to pull
15 off this Christmas program with any measure of
16 success. Now, I believe we have our line-up secure.
17 Where are my wise men? (*Looks over the heads of the*
18 *audience.*) No, no, no. The wise men are supposed to
19 come *after* the shepherds. (*Pause. Speaks a little slower this*
20 *time.*) *After the shepherds.* (*Pause. Speaks even slower with*
21 *exaggerated motions.*) *After ... the ... shepherds.* Now
22 remember, you’re going to be the last ones to come
23 through town looking for the star.

24 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 1:** What star? (*Enter HOPE, JOY,*
25 *and PEACE behind the PROGRAM COORDINATOR. They*
26 *are carrying the star. They appear to be struggling as they*
27 *simulate climbing a mountain with the large object. They are*
28 *separate from the scene as they enter Stage Right and exit*
29 *Stage Left.*)

30 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** We have a large star we’re
31 placing on top of that mountain over there. (*Points over*
32 *the heads of the audience.*) As soon as Hope, Joy, and
33 Peace get it positioned, they’ll light it up for the entire
34 town to see. At that point we’ll begin the procession
35 through town, starting with Mary and Joseph.

- 1 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 2: (*Male*) So we follow the
2 mountain?
- 3 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Noooo, you follow the star.
- 4 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 3: (*Male*) After Mary and
5 Joseph? (*FAITH enters.*)
- 6 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: (*Clearly frustrated*) After the
7 shepherds! (*Turns to FAITH.*) Faith, where did you get
8 these wise men?
- 9 FAITH: They're the only ones who fit the costumes.
- 10 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: (*Sighs.*) What about the donkey?
11 Did we finally get him tied outside?
- 12 FAITH: Not exactly.
- 13 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Well, what exactly?
- 14 FAITH: He found his way into the kitchen, and now he's
15 eating all the apples and candy we stored for the kids.
- 16 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Then get him out of there!
- 17 FAITH: We can't! He's snapping at anyone who comes close
18 to him.
- 19 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Don't we have a vet or some
20 expert that can calm that animal down ... or give it a
21 distemper shot ... or something?
- 22 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 4: (*Standing*) I'm the vet, but I'm
23 not going near it either.
- 24 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: All right then. After the
25 donkey has his fill of candy, just try to lure him
26 outside. (*To FAITH*) Man, if candy can make a donkey
27 mean, imagine what sugar does to our kids!
- 28 FAITH: This is becoming a disaster.
- 29 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: What is?
- 30 FAITH: This whole program!
- 31 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Nonsense. Didn't we all get
32 together and pray before starting this massive
33 undertaking?
- 34 FAITH: Yes, but ...
- 35 PROGRAM COORDINATOR: There you have it. Anything

1 less than spectacular would be unthinkable. Besides, I
2 have more important matters to discuss with you. (*Takes*
3 *her aside.*) Faith, you have been the rock of this church.
4 You comfort people when they're down, you give them
5 hope, you encourage them to continue their walk in the
6 Lord ...

7 **FAITH:** I do try my best.

8 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** And I want you to know how
9 much we appreciate all you do.

10 **FAITH:** (*Flattered*) Well, thank you. It's nice to be
11 appreciated.

12 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Now, I want you to run up
13 that mountain and go check up on our team with the
14 star.

15 **FAITH:** Run up?

16 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** I'm getting worried about
17 them.

18 **FAITH:** Run up a twelve-thousand-foot mountain?

19 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** I think as good stewards of
20 the Word, we should make sure all our members are
21 secure and safe.

22 **FAITH:** *Run up?!*

23 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** (*Taken back.*) Or ... some alternative
24 route?

25 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 5:** (*Comes running from the back*
26 *of the audience.*) The donkey's loose!

27 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Everyone scatter! Stay out of
28 its way! (*PROGRAM COORDINATOR exits quickly, leaving*
29 *FAITH standing Downstage. JOHN enters and stands by*
30 *FAITH.*)

31 **JOHN:** Do you think they'll ever get that animal under
32 control?

33 **FAITH:** I doubt it. (*Pause*) John, what are we going to do?
34 Everything is falling apart!

35 **JOHN:** Don't worry — it'll all work out. It always does.

- 1 **FAITH:** *(Skeptical)* You're kidding me!
- 2 **JOHN:** No, I'm serious. Every year we put on a Christmas
3 program, and every year it's one hectic mess after
4 another.
- 5 **FAITH:** How do you deal with it all?
- 6 **JOHN:** Well ... before we start the planning process, we get
7 together and pray. Then it's just a matter of working
8 out all the bugs and trusting God for the results.
- 9 **FAITH:** Really?
- 10 **JOHN:** Sure. Take our Program Coordinator, for example.
- 11 **FAITH:** I'd rather not.
- 12 **JOHN:** I know it looks like chaos right now, but she really
13 has everything under control. *(Enter PROGRAM*
14 *COORDINATOR, waving her arms and panicked. Add a*
15 *couple of non-speaking ACTORS running Upstage and down*
16 *the aisles for effect.)*
- 17 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Close the back gate ... close
18 the back gate! Get those kids off the playground! Jesse,
19 grab the reins! What do you mean, "No"? Somebody has
20 to get that animal! *(Pause)* My husband is *not* an option.
21 *(All exit.)*
- 22 **FAITH:** *(To JOHN)* You were saying?
- 23 **JOHN:** I was saying that it's all under control.
- 24 **FAITH:** How can you say that?!
- 25 **JOHN:** Because we trust God for the results. The Bible says
26 that without faith we are "like a wave of the sea, driven
27 and tossed by the wind" (James 1:6, NKJV). Or in our
28 *particular* situation, scattered in all directions by a
29 mule.
- 30 **FAITH:** What if it seems impossible?
- 31 **JOHN:** Look, Faith, we all have our mountains. Some are
32 more real than others, but God assures us that nothing
33 is impossible with him.
- 34 **FAITH:** Really?
- 35 **JOHN:** Really. Just take that step of faith and be creative.

1 *(Enter PROGRAM COORDINATOR, smiling and brushing*
2 *dust off her hands.)*

3 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Well, we got that all taken
4 care of. Hopefully the animal will wake up in time for
5 the program. *(Puts her arm around JOHN.)* Remember,
6 tranquilizing darts *(Or pills)* can be your friend!

7 **JOHN:** I'm sure it will all work out fine.

8 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Of course you're sure. It
9 always does, doesn't it? *(Pause.)* I say we've earned a
10 well-deserved break.

11 **JOHN:** Sounds good to me.

12 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Faith?

13 **FAITH:** Another time. *(Looks up over the heads of the*
14 *audience.)* I've got a mountain to climb. *(All exit.)*

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Embracing the Mountain

(A sketch about finding God's peace)

THEME: Part four of *The Mountain* series — featuring the lessons of peace.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 14:27, Isaiah 32:17, Romans 5:1

SYNOPSIS: A hiker remembers who to turn to when fear and personal expectations create paralyzing anxiety.

CAST: Program Coordinator, Hope, Joy, Peace, Faith, six audience participants, Narrator

COSTUMES: Hiking attire for Hope, Joy, and Peace.

PROPS: One large star with an extension cord, clipboard for Program Coordinator

SETTING: Above timberline on top of a mountain.

1 **NARRATOR:** On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle
2 of hope, which symbolizes waiting for things unseen. It
3 is a time of waiting for Christ's coming. (*Lights one*
4 *candle.*) The second Sunday, we lit the candle of joy.
5 (*Lights second candle.*) Joy is not mere happiness, but
6 knowing that God is always with us. The third Sunday,
7 we lit the candle of faith, (*Lights candle*) which
8 symbolizes the evidence of things not seen — a gift from
9 God himself. And today, the fourth Sunday of Advent,
10 we light the candle of peace. (*Lights the last candle.*) Peace
11 resides not in the absence of conflict, as the world views
12 it, but rather having been justified by faith, we have
13 been accepted, forgiven, loved by God, and made his
14 heirs. (*Exit NARRATOR. Enter PROGRAM*
15 *COORDINATOR.*)

16 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Everyone gather around.
17 We're coming down to the wire on our Christmas
18 pageant. Remember, we're going to form a procession
19 down Main Street led by Mary and Joseph, then the
20 shepherds, followed by the wise men. At the west end
21 of town, everyone will gather at the manger where the
22 Christmas program will be completed. Is everyone in
23 place? Where's Mary?

24 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 1:** She can't do it. She's afraid to
25 get near the donkey.

26 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** What do you mean she's
27 afraid? We didn't write that in the script. OK, who's the
28 stand-in?

29 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 2:** (*Male. Stands up.*) I am.

30 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** You are?

31 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT 3:** He's the only one who can
32 get close to the animal without it biting him.

33 **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** OK, Bob, just remember to
34 cover your face when you're riding in town. It also
35 wouldn't hurt to bat your eyes a little bit. (*To herself*)



Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

MOUNTAIN

by Mary Kaye Boyle.

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